

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2002

CONTACT: Milissa Reiersen
Information Officer
(615)253-4251 (O)
(615)302-0290 (H)

NASHVILLE – Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill announces A.O. Smith Electrical Products Company to receive the Commissioner's Award of Excellence for Workplace Safety and Health. This is the first time in Tennessee OSHA's history a company has won the award two consecutive years.

"A.O. Smith has demonstrated strong commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace," said Magill. "The evaluation criterion for this award is ambitious, and A.O. Smith has worked conscientiously to meet and exceed the standards the award requires. It is quite an honor to achieve this award two years in a row." State Senator Jerry Cooper said, "I'm proud to represent a business like A.O. Smith, which is a leader in the state for safety and health issues, because they genuinely care about the well-being of the people who work with them." State Representative Charles Curtiss said, "It says a lot when you see a company like A.O. Smith working hard protect the safety and welfare of their employees and to also see the employees working hard to keep such a magnificent safety record."

The Commissioner's Award of Excellence for Workplace Safety and Health is given to any Tennessee employer who has experienced 250 continuous workdays or 1,000,000 hours during a calendar year without workplace injuries serious enough to cause an employee to miss a day of work.

A.O. Smith has had no lost-time work injuries since last September. "Providing a safe working environment is one of A.O. Smith's most important values, and all of us take this responsibility very seriously. That is why I am pleased and grateful to see our McMinnville plant receive this honor from the State of Tennessee. It not only recognizes the effort each of our employees puts into keeping McMinnville safe, but it underscores the priority we place on maintaining accident-free facilities," said Donald M Heinrich, president of A.O. Smith Electrical Products Company.

“Our company enjoys a tradition of pioneering work in the area of safety that stretches back more than 50 years. McMinnville’s achievement is the most recent example of that tradition in action. It also is significant that McMinnville exceeded the million-hour threshold twice in the last year, a record unparalleled in recent A.O. Smith history.”

A.O. Smith manufactures the most comprehensive line of electric motors in North America and is also one of the two largest manufacturers of water heaters in North America. The A.O. Smith Corporation is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and employs approximately 14, 800 people at facilities in the United States, Mexico, Canada, England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Hungary, and China. The Nashville plant has approximately 800 employees.

--30--

(02-068)

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.